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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shigeru SAKUMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722

Application No.: 10/673,393

Examiner: G.N. RAO

Filed: September 30, 2003

Docket No.: 117368

For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING AN OPTICAL MEMBER FORMED BY A
FLUORIDE CRYSTAL

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 10, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-6, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-11 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Klifton L. Kime
Registration No. 42,733

MAC:KLK/slh

Date: March 9, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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